

11- BIBLE OVERVIEW

1 Samuel

1 Samuel introduces us to Eli, Samuel, Saul, and David. All played a pivotal role in the direction of Israel and God's plans.

Eli was a priest in the tabernacle (a church for the Jewish people) at Shiloh, and it was here that Hannah prayed for a son. If God gave her a son, she would give him to God's service. God answered her prayer. When Samuel was old enough, she took him to Eli and left him at the tabernacle to serve God.



Samuel grew in the Lord and served honorably. Do you remember the Book of Judges? We learned about Deborah, Gideon, Samson, and others. Well, Samuel was the last judge of Israel. He was also a priest and prophet. As Israel's leader, God allowed him to defeat the Philistines, bringing peace to the land.

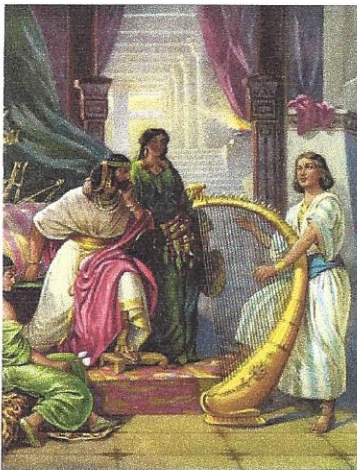
When Samuel grew older, he turned over his judicial duties to his sons, who were greedy and willing to take bribes. The people were unhappy with Samuel's sons and wanted a new type of leadership. The nations surrounding them had a king, and the people of Israel wanted a king too.

God told the people that He was their king, and His people were not like the other nations. But the people still clamored for a different type of leadership. So God gave them what they wanted, with a warning they would be sorry.



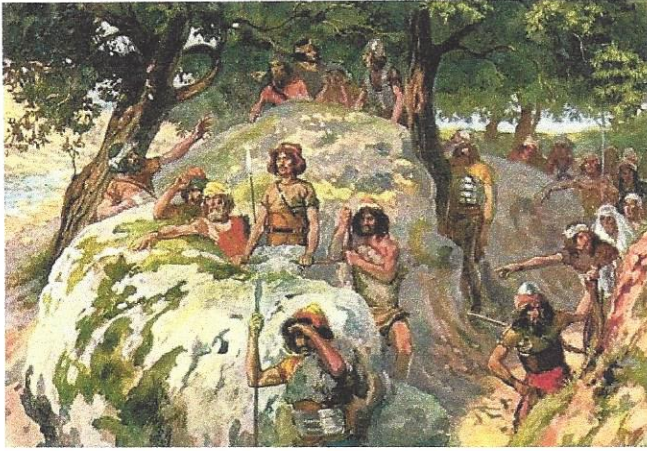
God instructed Samuel to anoint Saul as the first king. Saul's leadership led to the defeat of the Ammonites. This victory garnered support for Saul and unified the people of Israel.

It didn't take long for Saul to begin to think he was special, and started doing things his way and not God's way. The Spirit of the LORD left Saul, and God told Samuel to anoint David as the next king. Because God was no longer with Saul, the king was depressed and fearful. David would come and play the harp for Saul to help him calm down.



During this time David began to have military successes, and the people sang of his great feats. Jealous of David, Saul tried to kill him. So David fled to

the wilderness, with about 600 men. Due to God's protection, Saul never found David.



This book also tells us the story of David and Goliath. Goliath was a giant Philistine, who David defeated with a slingshot. Another story in 1 Samuel is about the close friendship between Saul's son Jonathan and David. When David was hiding from Saul, Jonathan helped protect him.



By the end of this book, both Samuel and Saul are dead. David is set to take the throne. We will learn about David's reign in 2 Samuel.

DEVOTION

"You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied" (1 Samuel 17:45 NIV).

David's father sent him to take food to his older brothers, who were at the battle site. He was a young boy and not old enough to be a soldier. When David arrives he hears that Goliath is taunting the Israelites and challenging them to a one-on-one battle. The soldier that wins, claims victory for his nation.



What was David's response to Goliath's challenge?

_____ (1 Sam. 17:26b)

The Israelites were afraid. Why wasn't David afraid?

_____ (1 Samuel 17:37)

What weapon did David take to battle Goliath? _____
(1 Samuel 17:40)



The Israelites saw how _____ Goliath was, but David knew that his

God was _____ and more _____.

PRAYER

Dear God, I want to be like David. When I think something is too big for me to complete or accomplish, help me to remember that You can do anything, and to depend on You and not my strength. Amen.

My name is _____ . I am

_____ years old. I am walking through the Bible with

_____ on this date _____ .

FOR A TODDLER

What you need: Nothing extra

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Have you ever been sad? What things make you sad? Can you make a sad face?



Today we are going to talk about a woman in the Bible named Hannah. She wanted a child - like your mommy and daddy wanted to have you as their little girl. She was so sad that her face was downcast. That just means she was making a sad face like you just did.

Look at the picture below and tell me what Hannah did when she was sad.



Hannah Praying

The Bible says after she prayed: "her face was no longer downcast" (1 Samuel 1: 18b).

So when you are sad, what should you do?

PRAYER

Dear God, Sometimes I get sad. When I am sad I will pray to you, because you love me and will help me to smile again. Amen.

My name is _____ . I am

_____ years old. I am walking through the Bible with

_____ on this date _____ .